

TEACHER RESOURCE

Gender Identification and Sexual Orientation - Vocabulary

Gender - A social construct based on emotional, behavioral, and cultural characteristics attached to a person's assigned biological sex. A person's social and/or legal status as male or female.

Stereotype - An exaggerated and oversimplified belief about an entire group of people, such as an ethnic or religious group or a gender.

Gender Identification - Describes the biological traits of a person and how a person views himself or herself. **Biological Sex** Being male or female based on a person's genitals.

Questioning - Describes an individual who questions his/her own identity and orientation.

Transgender - Describes individuals whose gender identity differs from others of their biological sex.

Sexual Orientation - The overall term that is used to describe people's physical and/or romantic attractions to other people.

Heterosexual - Describes an individual who is attracted to people of the opposite sex.

Homosexual - Describes an individual who is sexually attracted to people of the same sex.

Bisexual - Describes an individual who is sexually attracted to people of both sexes.

Acceptance - Appreciating other people and situations

Tolerance - Willing to accept feelings, habits, or beliefs that are different from your own